

about to come from the transportation and infrastructure bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we know that we must rebuild our crumbling infrastructure in this country. That is not a question.

In fact, in my home State of Pennsylvania, 15 percent of roads are in poor condition, and there are over 5,200 structurally deficient bridges. There is plenty of work to do, work which will be supported by the bipartisan passage of the other week's 6-year surface transportation bill.

What we can decide today, with my Fairness to Veterans Act, is if it will be in our Nation's interest that our veterans will help to lead that work.

Let's salute our veteran small-business owners by empowering them to rebuild America and passing the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act, a bipartisan, commonsense, no-cost-to-the-taxpayer update of existing legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this simple bipartisan proposal and pass this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1694.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO ASSIST WITH CURATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3114) to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3114

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies are required to preserve and catalogue artifacts and other items of national historical significance that are uncovered during the course of their work (notably under part 79 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations).

(2) Uncatalogued artifacts within the care of Federal agencies are stored in hundreds of repositories and museums across the Nation.

(3) In October 2009, the Corps of Engineers, Center of Expertise for the Curation and Man-

agement of Archaeological Collections, initiated the Veterans' Curation Program to employ and train Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in archaeological processing.

(4) The Veterans' Curation Program employs veterans and members of the Armed Forces in the sorting, cleaning, and cataloguing of artifacts managed by the Corps of Engineers.

(5) Employees of the Veterans' Curation Program gain valuable work skills, including computer database management, records management, photographic and scanning techniques, computer software proficiency, vocabulary and writing skills, and interpersonal communication skills, as well as knowledge and training in archaeology and history.

(6) Since 2009, a total of 241 veterans have participated in the Veterans' Curation Program, including the current class of 38 participants. Of the 203 graduates of the program, 87 percent have received permanent employment in a field related to training received under the program or chosen to continue their education.

(7) Experience in archaeological curation gained through the Veterans' Curation Program is valuable training and experience for the museum, forensics, administrative, records management, and other fields.

(8) Veterans' Curation Program participants may assist the Corps of Engineers in developing a more efficient and comprehensive collections management program and also may provide the workforce to meet the records management needs at other agencies and departments, including the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 2. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES IN CURATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

Using available funds, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall carry out a Veterans' Curation Program to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Secretary in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3114.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As our veterans return home, they deserve opportunities for employment in addition to our thanks for their brave sacrifice and service.

I believe one of the greatest responsibilities our government has is to ensure the members of our military, both Active and retired, and their families have opportunities upon returning home.

Our veterans gave a career of service to their country, risked their lives in combat, and experienced long periods of separation from their families.

The Veterans Curation Program was created to give veterans the opportunity to adjust to a civilian work environment and learn important skills

while processing at-risk archeological collections belonging to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

By investing in servicemembers, the Veterans Curation Program is building on the skills that veterans acquire during military service, including leadership, teamwork, and attention to detail.

Working under the direct supervision of professionals in the field of archaeology, the veterans receive competitive pay and technical training in a peer-to-peer veterans environment. I urge all Members to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of H.R. 3114, as stated by my colleague, a bipartisan bill, introduced along with my colleague, Congressman RODNEY DAVIS from Illinois, to permanently authorize available funds from the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans for curation and historic preservation of archaeological sites, items of historical value during their excavation and during other related activities.

It is very notable that, on the legislative week immediately following Veterans Day, the House is considering important legislation to provide job training assistance to hire and train our veterans.

As part of our government's effort to protect our Nation's archaeological heritage, Federal agencies are required to provide curation and preservation services to professional museums and archival practices.

In 2009, the Army Corps of Engineers began training veterans in archaeological processing activities, using temporary funds provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, otherwise known as ARRA.

For 6 years, veterans have enrolled in the program, and have been acquiring valuable job skills, including but not limited to computer database management, records management, scanning, and photographing records and artifacts. These are skills further preparing our veterans for today's competitive job market by giving them valuable, hands-on experience.

As of earlier this year, 231 veterans have gone through the program, and currently they have 38 veterans in this current class.

As a direct result of the program, 139 veterans have obtained permanent employment; 39 have continued their education, either at colleges, universities, or in certificated programs.

Not only does the Corps' Veterans Curation Program educate, train, and employ veterans, the program's jobs are tailored to fit the capabilities of disabled veterans. The Corps undertakes these activities in three facilities across our country, located in Georgia, Virginia, and Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are grateful for the chance to provide our veterans an opportunity to continue

healing by carrying out meaningful work and job training that is helping them and their families reintegrate, become more productive, and that is so beneficial to our Nation.

I urge all my colleagues to support making this worthwhile program permanent and joining me in passing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a program that is very worthwhile. It is one of the agency's many efforts to continue helping our veterans be able to get job training, get job skills, and be able to sustain their families in a way that may make them feel whole again. I do ask all my colleagues to support this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3114, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PARTNERS FOR AVIATION SECURITY ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3144) to require consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee regarding modifications to the prohibited item list, require a report on the Transportation Security Oversight Board, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3144

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

The Act may be cited as the "Partners for Aviation Security Act".

SEC. 2. AVIATION SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTATION.

The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consult, to the extent practicable, with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49 of the United States Code) regarding any modification to the prohibited item list prior to issuing a determination about any such modification.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OVERSIGHT BOARD.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Transportation Security Oversight Board (established pursuant to section 115 of title 49, United States Code), the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Home-

land Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes general information on how often the Board has met, the current composition of the Board, and what activities the Board has undertaken, consistent with the duties specified in subsection (c) of such section. The Administrator may include in such report recommendations for changes to such section in consideration of the provisions of section 44946 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TERMS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 44946(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(A) TERMS.—The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be two years but may continue until such time as a successor member begins serving on the Advisory Committee. A member of the Advisory Committee may be reappointed."

(b) CLARIFICATION.—Paragraph (5) of section 44946(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "under paragraph (4)" and inserting "under this subsection".

SEC. 5. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "prohibited item list" means the list of items passengers are prohibited from carrying as accessible property or on their persons through passenger screening checkpoints at airports, into sterile areas at airports, and on board passenger aircraft, pursuant to section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2015).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act of 2015.

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Mr. Speaker, this important bipartisan legislation ensures that the critical decisions affecting the transportation security of the United States are not made in a vacuum without the input and perspective of relevant transportation stakeholders.

Unfortunately, the Transportation Security Administration has a troublesome history when making sweeping policy changes at the expense of the traveling public and other affected parties, such as aviation workers, airports, airlines, vendors, and law enforcement.

Specifically, H.R. 3144 requires the Administrator of TSA to consult, when possible, with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee before deter-

mining whether to modify the prohibited items lists for passenger aircraft.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee on Transportation Security conducted oversight of efforts to modify the prohibited items list after TSA made a sweeping decision to do so without appropriate prior consultation with stakeholders. By codifying the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, or ASAC, the committee has a proven record of ensuring that TSA consults with stakeholders on important matters of transportation security when appropriate.

This commonsense legislation adds to this record. Another important provision of this bill requires that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit a report to both Congress and the Transportation Security Oversight Board, including important information on the Board's composition and activities. This report may include recommendations for Congress and the Department to improve the Board and ensure that it is meeting the original intent of providing review to transportation security-related regulations and making a meaningful contribution to the security of our Nation's critical transportation systems.

Each and every day, Mr. Speaker, there are new and evolving threats to the security of America's traveling public, and it is the important work of the Department of Homeland Security and TSA to ensure that travelers are safe and to mitigate threats against transportation. In this regard, it is of the highest importance that relevant partners in transportation security are engaged and included in ongoing dialogue on important policy matters being considered.

I wish to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, as well as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. KATKO, for their work in bringing this bill to the floor today and conducting critical oversight efforts to secure America's transportation systems. Additionally, I wish to thank the bill's author, Congressman PAYNE, for his hard work and dedication to this issue. Finally, I would like to thank the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, for supporting this important legislation.

Collaboration is the key to effective security, and it is the prerogative of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that open lines of communication exist between stakeholders, TSA, and DHS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act. I introduced H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act, to ensure that the Transportation Security Administration's key domestic partner for aviation security, the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, is